

REMARKS

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Claims 1-6 and claims 9-21 remain.

New claims 14-21 are herewith submitted.

Independent claim 14 recites the concept of a detachable side piece which has a duct attachment collar and is attachable in a position covering a side opening in the manifold housing. The side piece is configured to be pulled down through the bottom opening and attached to the end of a duct also able to be pulled through the side opening. This allows convenient and quick attachment of the duct to the side piece collar when at a location below the ceiling and separated from the housing. The duct and side piece can thereafter be pushed up and the side piece located over the side opening.

This arrangement is not suggested by Barboza et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,109,756) which does not describe such a removable side piece which can be remounted and held in a covering position after attachment of the duct at a location below the ceiling and housing.

In Murphy (U.S. Patent No. 5,095,942), the conduits are mountable only from the outside of the box. A projecting end of a conduit able to connect to a flexible duct can only be done by insertion into a hole by movement from outside the box. A conduit cannot be pushed into position from the inside of the box. Since claim 14 specifies removal of the side piece by movement into the inside of the manifold housing, it distinguishes over Murphy.

Thus, claims 14-21 are urged to be patentable along with claims 1-6 and 9-13.

FROM :

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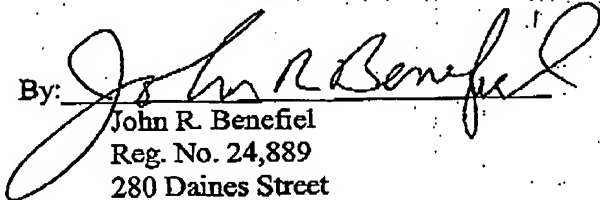
Favorable reconsideration is respectfully considered.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 25, 2005

By:

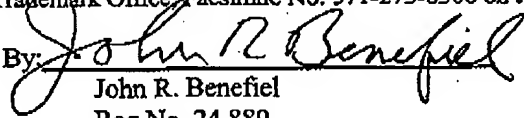

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